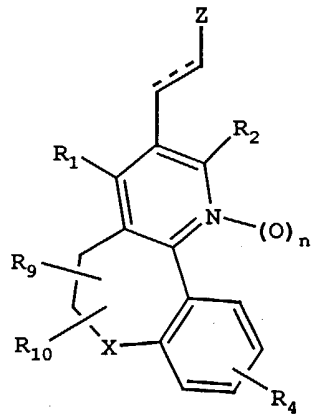
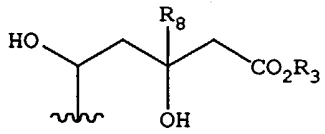
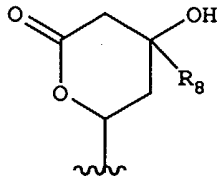


wherein X is O, S, SO, SO_2 or NR_7;

Z is  or  also referred to as the δ-lactone;

n is 0 or 1;

R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and are independently selected from alkyl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl or cycloheteroalkyl;

R_3 is H or lower alkyl or a metal ion;

R_4 is H, halogen, CF_3, hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy, carboxyl, carboxyalkyl-, aminoalkyl, amino, alkanoylamino, aroylamino, cyano, alkoxyCON(R_{7d})-, $R_{7f}R_{7g}NCO_2$-, $R_{7f}R_{7g}NCO$-, $R_{7e}SO_2N(R_{7d})$-, $R_{7f}R_{7g}NSO_2N(R_{7d})$-, $R_{7e}OCO_2$- or $R_{7e}OCO$;

R_7 is H, alkyl, aryl, alkanoyl, aroyl or alkoxycarbonyl, $R_{7a}SO_2$-, $R_{7b}R_{7c}NSO_2$- or $R_{7b}R_{7c}NCO$-;

R_{7a} and R_{7e} are the same or different and are independently selected from alkyl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl or cycloheteroaryl;

R_{7b} and R_{7c}, and R_{7f} and R_{7g}, and R_{7d} are the same or different and are independently selected from H, alkyl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl or cycloheteroalkyl;

R_8 is H or lower alkyl;

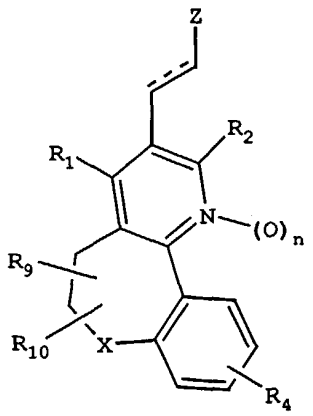
R_9 and R_{10} are the same or different and are independently selected from H or alkyl; or where at least one of R_9 and R_{10} is alkyl, R_9 and R_{10} may be taken together with the carbon or carbons to which they are attached to form a 3 to 7 membered carbocyclic ring, which may include a spirocyclic ring;

and  represents a single bond or a double bond (which may be cis or trans);

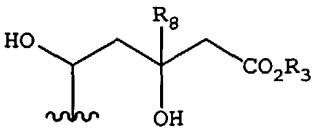
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof (where R_3 is H), or an ester thereof, or a stereoisomer thereof;

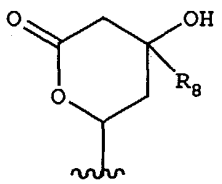
and another therapeutic agent which is one or more hypolipidemic agents or lipid-lowering agents, or lipid agents, or lipid modulating agents, and/or one or more other types of therapeutic agents including antidiabetic agents, anti-obesity agents, antihypertensive agents, platelet aggregation inhibitors, anti-dementia agents, anti-Alzheimer's agents, anti-osteoporosis agents, and/or hormone replacement therapeutic agents, and/or other cardiovascular agents (including anti-anginal agents, anti-arrhythmic agents, anti-atherosclerosis agents, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-arthritis agents, anti-platelet agents, anti-heart failure agents), anti-cancer agents, anti-infective agents, hormone replacement agents, growth hormone secretagogues, selective androgen receptor modulators, and/or immunomodulatory agents.

46. (Amended) A method for treating cholesterol related diseases, diabetes and related diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, which comprises administering to a mammalian species in need of treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a combination of a compound having the structure



wherein X is O, S, SO, SO_2 or NR_7;

Z is 

or 

(also referred to as the δ-lactone);

n is 0 or 1;

R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and are independently selected from alkyl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl or cycloheteroalkyl;

R_3 is H or lower alkyl or a metal ion;

R_4 is H, halogen, CF_3, hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy, carboxyl, carboxyalkyl-, aminoalkyl, amino, alkanoylamino, aroylamino, cyano, alkoxyCON(R_{7d})-, $R_{7f}R_{7g}NCO_2$-, $R_{7f}R_{7g}NCO$-, $R_{7e}SO_2N(R_{7d})$-, $R_{7f}R_{7g}NSO_2N(R_{7d})$-, $R_{7e}OCO_2$- or $R_{7e}OCO$;